

Volume 13, Issue 1

February 2009

## Guard Eligible for Child Care Subsidy

For National Guard members about to deploy there is help to assist spouses and family members with the costs of child care during deployment through the Guard's Child Care Subsidy Program.

The subsidy is used for off-post child care, and Guard and Reserve members are eligible as long as they are in Title 10 or Title 32 status.

The subsidy program is coordinated through the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which approves applications and determines the amount paid as part of the subsidy.

For more information on the program, call 1-888-642-2799 or visit the National Guard Family Program's website

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

## Board Election

*March 2009*

An election for the three at-large Directors is scheduled for 2009. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2009) and Officers are elected in even number years (2010).

The AHA President, John Ruppel, appointed an Election Committee composed of Vice President, Steve James; Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Russell; Newsletter Editor, Lynda Fawcett; and an association member at large, James Rommelfanger. The committee is responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers' Lunch, scheduled for March 24, 2009.

All AHA members in good standing may vote for Director. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2008 membership dues. If your last year's dues were not paid, you are not considered to be in good standing and are not eligible to vote. There are five names on the ballot: Lt Col Jay Craddock, Capt John Oliver, SMSgt Joe Preciado, CCMS Liliana Ramos, and CCMS Doug Sale. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for four nominees. The nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 16, 2009, and mailed to:

Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett  
4732 Heatherbrae Circle  
Sacramento, CA 95842-4328

*Mark and mail your ballots today!*

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## The Prez Sez

*The President's Column*

COL John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

The February Newsletter is being utilized to provide all eligible members with the Director Election ballot. The ballot has postage affixed; please take a moment to vote for four Directors. The Association Officers appreciate the members who have volunteered their time by standing for election.

The Annual Old Timers lunch will be held Tuesday, March 24, at the Loyal Order of Moose Hall in Castro Valley. The Newsletter contains lunch reservation information and a map.

The Association will be awarding four Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. Thanks to Cindy Kepple and the Scholarship Committee for their work. A special thanks to Ron and Vic Vandenberghe for their generosity in establishing the BG Albert R Santos and SMSgt Donald Delucchi scholarships.

The OTL guest speaker is Capt Eric Steele, of the 12th Reconnaissance Squadron, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB. Capt Steele is a RQ-4 Global Hawk UAV pilot.

The luncheon raffle tradition will be continued; the featured picture to be raffled is the Wing's first delivered C-46. Jay Craddock is providing the framed picture and two others.

Liliana Ramos has done yeomen's work in restocking the Mercantile Store with several new items. She has located a new source for Association jackets, and the two new versions and other new items will be available at the luncheon.

The Board decided to change web page providers to increase the site's capabilities. The original web page was created more than ten years ago and Microsoft no longer supports the software. We have procured new software and are in the process of developing a new web page. We hope to have the new page operational by the Old Timers lunch.

I recently learned that Lt Col Paul Chabot passed away last July. The Association extends condolences to Paul's family. Lt Col John Kenney passed away December 20, 2008. The newsletter contains an article on John.

The Board approved the Wing's request to again provide 200 deployment bags. The bags will once again be assembled by Lynda Fawcett and will contain snacks and other articles.

I look forward to chatting with those who attend the Old Timers lunch. If you cannot attend the lunch please feel free to email your comments to

[j-l.ruppel@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j-l.ruppel@worldnet.att.net)

*Please mail your ballots and get your lunch reservations in early!*

Cheers!!!

*John*

## 2008 Scholarship Awards

Lt Col Cindy Kepple

The Association will award five Wing members \$1,000 scholarships. Two scholarships are being awarded with the Bay Area MOAA Chapter's partnership and generous \$1,000 matching contribution. The Chiefs' Council has funded an additional scholarship. The winners will receive their checks during the annual Old Timers Lunch. Congratulations to following Wing members who have been awarded the 2008 scholarships!

### 129<sup>th</sup> AHA and MOAA Scholarship

✚ SSgt Lance Bain – 129<sup>th</sup> MDG  
Nursing

### 129<sup>th</sup> AHA and MOAA Scholarship

✚ SSgt Jeannie Lam – 129<sup>th</sup> OSF  
Business Management

### BG Albert R. Santos Scholarship

✚ SrA Earl Prevoznak – 129<sup>th</sup> RQS  
Chinese & International Relations

### SMSgt Donald Delucchi Scholarship

✚ SSgt Rachel Cruz – 129<sup>th</sup> HC  
Aviation Industry

### 129<sup>th</sup> Chiefs' Council Scholarship

✚ MSgt Barbara Apkarian – 129<sup>th</sup> PA  
Visual Communication

*Cindy*

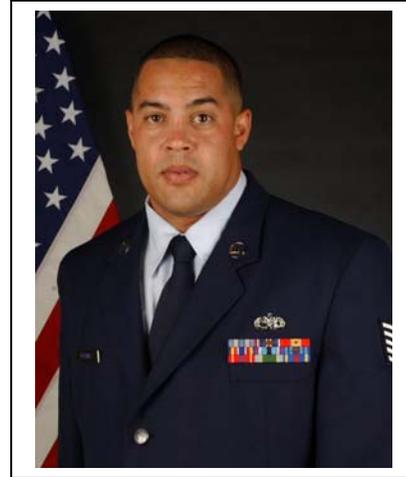


## Outstanding Airmen - 2009

The Wing has selected the Outstanding Airmen for 2009. These individuals will be our guests at the Old Timers Luncheon and will be presented with a one-year membership to the Association. Congratulations and Welcome!



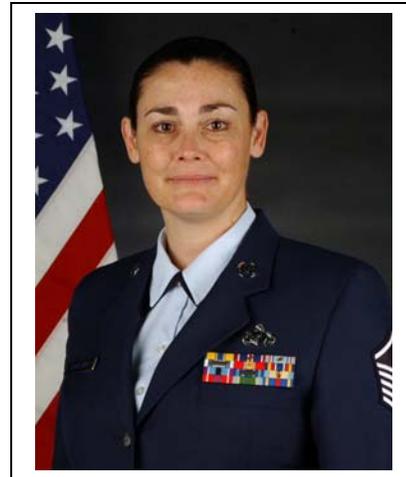
Airman of the Year  
SrA Sean S. Pellaton  
129th RQS



California  
NCO of the Year  
TSgt Fernando Wilkins, Jr.  
129th MXS



SrNCO of the Year  
SMSgt Larry J. Hiyakumoto  
131st RQS



1st Sergeant of the Year  
MSgt Jennifer L. Brouillard  
129th MSG

# 2008 An Impressive Year for 129th Air Guardsmen

**Alyson M. Teeter, Capt., CA ANG**  
**129th Rescue Wing Public Affairs**

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. - 2008 was a successful year for the 129th Rescue Wing. Seamlessly transitioning from firefighting duty to rescue missions over water and across the country displayed the unit's ability to adapt, respond, and save lives.

The 129th RQW began this summer's Northern California firefight, Operation Lightning Strike, or OLS, by sending key personnel to support operations at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Sacramento. The wing also [mobilized personnel](#) to provide direct ground support to help CAL FIRE with the wildfire threat.

Two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and aircrews were certified to [perform water bucket drops](#) on the fires for the first time in unit history. Overall, the crews dropped more than 150,000 gallons of water.

Personnel remained on search and rescue alert throughout the duration of OLS. Crews stationed in Redding landed in rugged Northern California terrain to medevac [injured firefighters](#). Crews also saved two survivors of the deadly Aug. 5 Sikorsky S-61 firefighting [helicopter crash](#) northwest of Redding.

Along with responding to state emergencies, rescue crews performed two long-range over water missions. The first was a [June mission](#) 550 miles off the coast of California for a critically ill crewmember aboard a cargo vessel. A month later, while still immersed in firefighting operations, crews saved a [Canadian fisherman](#) aboard a fishing boat 600 miles off the coast. Both patients were transported to the Regional Medical Center of San Jose. The center's heliport, which debuted in June, was the [first in the Bay Area](#) to be certified for use by the wing's HH-60G helicopter.

Soon after the 129th had a pause in firefighting missions, Airmen responded to another state emergency. Labor Day weekend the unit received a call for help from Louisiana as Hurricane Gustav was making its way towards the Gulf Coast region. More than 80 unit members [quickly deployed](#) to Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, forming Joint Task Force 129.

Hurricane Gustav caused less damage than originally predicted, but the mission was not over because Hurricane Ike was heading towards Galveston, Texas. JTF 129 remained in Ellington and then moved out of the path of the storm to Kelly Field in San Antonio. Helicopters launched and [rescued 16 civilians](#) despite the rising flood waters and hurricane force winds. HH-60G helicopters were the last to leave Houston airspace before Ike made landfall. The following day, JTF 129 helicopters launched immediately into the disaster area and [rescued another 18 survivors](#).

To help prepare for natural and human-made disasters, 129th Airmen participated in multi-agency exercises, including [BAYEX 2008](#), a full-scale exercise designed to test the ability of Oakland, California, and federal agencies to conduct a coordinated response to a major emergency. The unit also participated with NASA Ames in the [Great Worden Quake II](#), an emergency exercise designed to train and sharpen the skills of Moffett Field's emergency and disaster assistance responders

The 129th Rescue Wing's Counterdrug Task Force detachment, [Team Hawk](#), utilized the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, aircrew, pararescuemen and maintainers to support local law enforcement agencies in the eradication of illegal narcotics and the restoration of forest lands environmentally damaged by marijuana production. During Operation LOCCUST, Team Hawk airlifted more than 520,000 marijuana plants and \$2.2 billion in drug production equipment during a massive state-wide drug eradication operation - the largest in California history.

Members from the 129th Security Forces Squadron returned in May from a six-month deployment to the Eskan Village in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In 2008 the 129th Security Forces Squadron was also named the National Guard Bureau's Outstanding Security Forces Squadron of the Year for 2007. This achievement was unprecedented as it was the third consecutive award received by the unit for excellence.

A video montage of the wing's 2008 activities is posted on the 129th Rescue Wing's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md6A6Dyyp34>.

## New Military Handbook Available

Military Handbooks has announced the release of a new 2008 handbook for military personnel, the 2008 Guard and Reserve Military Handbook.

This handbook, written specifically for members of the Reserve Component, includes a variety of information about military pay, benefits, and education. To receive your own copy of this handbook, simply go to their Web site - [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com) and submit your request. Don't forget to tell all of your military colleagues about this free handbook!

About the 2008 Guard and Reserve Military Handbook:

This unique handbook, written specifically for the National Guard and Reserves, gives you everything you need to know about serving in the Reserve Component, including: drill pay and enlistment bonuses; allowances like BAS and BAH; re-employment rights; education and training benefits specific to the Guard and Reserve; health care; and retirement.

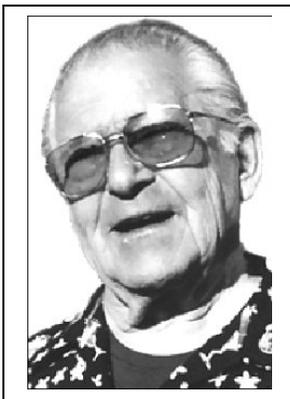
Understanding the benefits you receive from serving in the Reserve Component can be tricky, especially if you don't know where to go for more information. This handbook combines it all into one easy to use guide.

To download your own FREE copies of the 2008 Military Handbooks, please visit: <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com/>

## *Lt Col John William Kenney*

*28 April 1930 – 20 December 2008*

John William Kenney, affectionately called Bill, Dad, and Grandpa by his many friends and family, peacefully passed away in his home on December 20, 2008, at the age of 78, after a courageous battle with cancer. Bill was a Chicago-born transplant to the Bay Area, riding the train cross-country as a child of the Great Depression to settle with his mother and father, John W. and Helen Kenney, in Alameda. He graduated from Alameda High School and was swept off to the Korean War as an Air Force enlisted man. While his war stories are favorites of those he knew, he was most proud of his service in the US Military in the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserves, as a war veteran and of his rank as retired lieutenant colonel. Bill was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.



Aside from the military, Bill earned his teaching credential at San Francisco State University and started a family with his wife Mary, to whom he was married almost 55 years. Bill became an art teacher in the Richmond Unified School District teaching at De Anza and Juan Crespi, a job he held for over 30 years. Bill was a proud and active member of the Boy Scouts of America for over 45 years, a member of the Alameda Elks, and threw the best St. Patrick's Day parties on the Island. As a retiree, many remember Bill as listening to jazz music in his crowded workshop, or tinkering around in his attic. He loved cutting, painting, labeling, organizing and building, teaching these skills to his children and grandchildren, spending time at his Tahoe cabin, and traveling the world with his wife and family. His tremendous sense of humor, wisdom, generosity, and personality resonate as loudly today as they ever did. Bill is survived by his loving wife Mary Kenney; his three children Karen, Patrick, and Katy Kenney, their spouses Steve Choy, Diana Kenney, and Kevin Gorham, respectively; and his five grandchildren, Caitlin, Kiera, Annie, Hannah and Sean. He was preceded in death by his eldest son, Michael Kenney. A Memorial Service was held in celebration of Bill's life December 27, 2008, at the Officer's Club of Alameda. Donations can be sent to the Alameda Council of Boy Scouts at 1714 Everett; Alameda Welfare Council at P.O. Box 2265; Girls Inc of the Island City at 1724 Santa Clara Ave; or the [American Cancer Society](#)

## **VA Officials Assist Veterans with Health Care Costs**

**WASHINGTON (AFRNS)** -- For veterans struggling financially because of a job loss or decreased income, Department of Veterans Affairs officials offer an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds. The fall must be caused by a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback.

Veterans determined eligible because of hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

"With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned."

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at (877) 222-VETS, or 8387, or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility). (Courtesy of VA)

## **VA Opening 31 New Outpatient Clinics**

### **World-Class Health Care Brought Closer to More Veterans**

WASHINGTON - Veterans will have easier access to world-class health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan to open 31 new outpatient clinics in 16 states.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake today announced VA will establish new clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

"VA is committed to providing world-class health care to the men and women who have served this nation," Peake said. "These new clinics will bring VA's top-notch care closer to the veterans who have earned it."

With 153 hospitals and about 745 community-based clinics, VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. VA's medical care budget of more than \$41 billion this year will provide health care to about 5.8 million people during nearly 600,000 hospitalizations and more than 62 million outpatient visits.

"Community-based medicine is better medicine," said Dr. Michael Kussman, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It makes preventative care easier for patients, helps health care professionals have closer relationships with their patients and permits easier follow-ups for patients with chronic health problems."

The community-based outpatient clinics, or CBOCs, will become operational by late 2010, with some opening in 2009. Local VA officials will keep communities and their veterans informed of milestones in the creation of the new CBOCs.

### **VA's Proposed Sites for New Outpatient Clinics**

Alabama - Monroe County (2010)

Arkansas - Faulkner County (2010), Pope County (2010)

California - Lake County (2010), Oakhurst (2010), Susanville (2010), Yuba County (2010)

Florida - Brandon (2010), Clermont (2010)

Georgia -- Blairsville (2010)

Hawaii - Leeward (Honolulu, 2010)

Illinois - Carbondale (2009), Harrisburg (2010), Sterling (2010)

Iowa -- Decorah (2010)

Maryland - Fort Meade (2010), Montgomery County (2010)

Michigan - Bad Axe (2010), Cadillac (2010), Cheboygan (2010), Grayling (2010)

Minnesota - Southern central border (2010), Southwest metro area (exact locations to be determined, 2010)

Mississippi - Pike County (2010)

Missouri - Excelsior Springs (2009), Sikeston (2009), Sedalia (2010)

North Carolina - Edenton-Elizabeth City (2010), Goldsboro (2010)

Pennsylvania - Cranberry Township (2009)

Vermont - Brattleboro (2010)

## Drive to drill, save some lives ... Another day at the office

by Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton  
Special to the 129th Rescue Wing

12/8/2008 - MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. -- Early Sunday morning on Dec. 7, Lt. Col. Jack O'Neill, commander of the 130th Rescue Squadron of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing, was driving in his car from San Ramon, Calif., for the second day of the weekend drill at Moffett Federal Airfield.

At 5 a.m., he was just waking up, driving to what he thought would be another routine day at drill on Interstate 680 southbound, near Mission Boulevard in Milpitas. Suddenly, his attention was caught by his rear view mirror, where he watched as a large bread van had wandered off the right shoulder and head-on impacted the leading edge of an overpass guardrail.

"The van became airborne with an immediate 30-foot fireball explosion," Colonel O'Neill said. "I was taken aback by the size of the explosion. The van landed on the driver's side with the undercarriage on fire. I pulled over to the shoulder, called 911 and then began backing up to render assistance. I thought to myself ... Self-Aid Buddy Care training don't fail me now!"

A nearby semi-truck driver, "Matt," also saw the single-vehicle accident and had pulled over and was rendering assistance, Colonel O'Neill said. "Matt had yelled to the occupants to cover their faces, and had broken the windshield with his fire extinguisher. I became his wingman and assisted with opening the windshield to get the people out of the cab. We pulled one man and three women from the vehicle. We got them a safe distance and covered them with blankets that were pulled from the wreckage. Luckily, all of the individuals seemed to be okay."

Although Matt expended his fire extinguisher fighting the blaze, he was unable to put out the fire. The fire department, police and ambulance soon arrived and took control of the situation, carrying two of the victims to the hospital on backboards.

The rescuers were lucky, too: Both had bleeding cuts on their hands from shards of glass from the windshield, and Matt had some eye discomfort, but neither had major injuries, Colonel O'Neill said. "Matt did say he wished he'd put on gloves first."

Displaying the courtesy and humility Air Guardsmen prize, Colonel O'Neill thanked Matt for his quick thinking and heroic life-saving efforts. There was no way those accident victims could have gotten out of that van without assistance. Just starting his 12-hour workday, Matt had a long day ahead. "It was very satisfying to be Matt's wingman and help get four people out of a terrible situation," Colonel O'Neill said.

"I never thought I would say this, but I'm thankful for the SABC training we received in preparation for the ORI. It gave me the confidence to be proactive and get involved. Luckily today, I did not have to use any of that knowledge," Colonel O'Neill said.

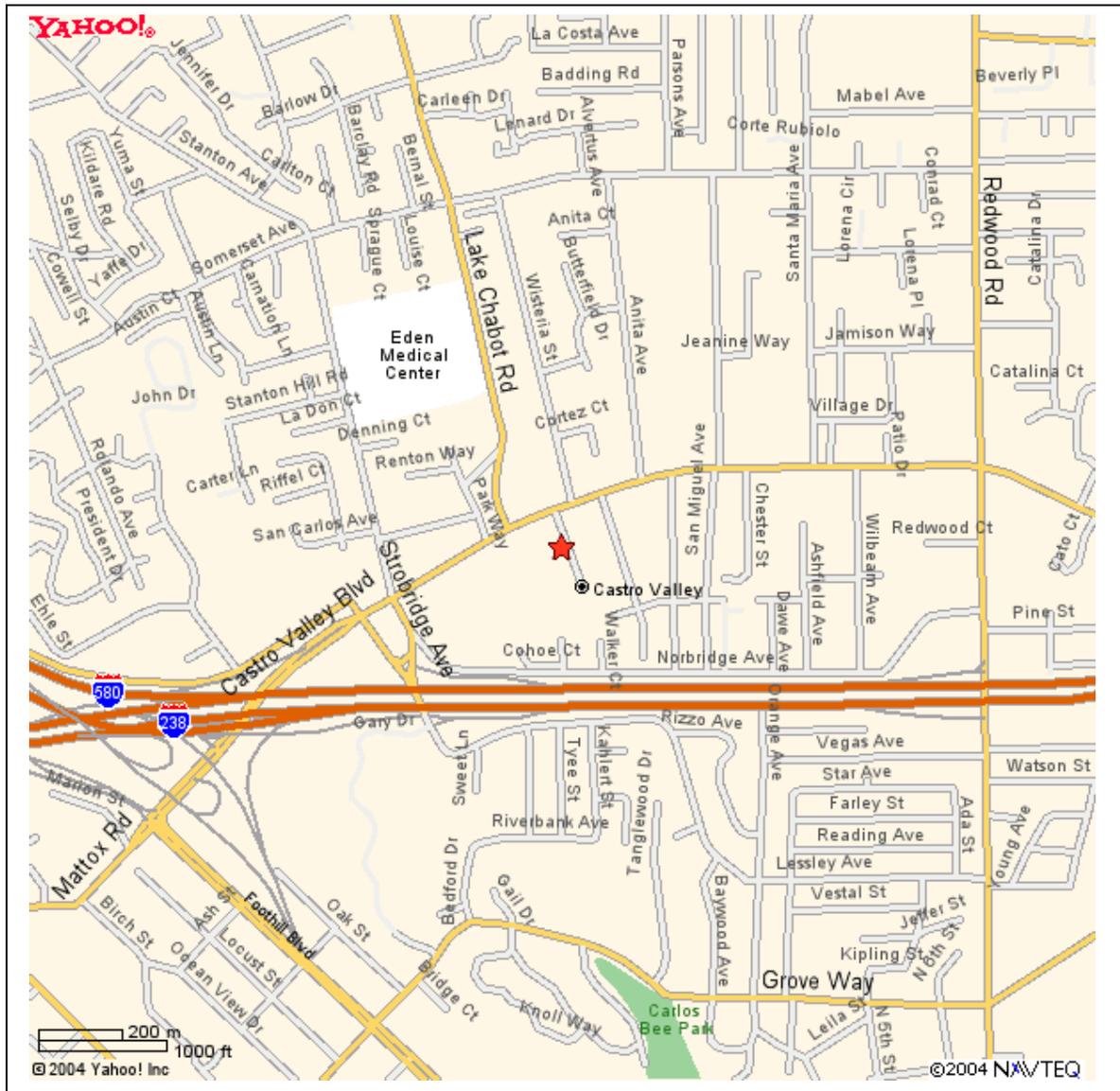
"I think I will break out my AFMAN 10-100 for a little refresher training. I am also going to buy a few more fire extinguishers for my home and car, and keep a pair of gloves in the trunk. You never know when you might be needed to be a first-responder or wingman."



**Lt Col Jack O'Neill**

U.S. Air Force photo by  
Master Sgt. Dan Kacir

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall  
20835 Rutledge Road  
Castro Valley, CA 94546



Driving Directions to the Castro Valley Moose Hall – 20835 Rutledge Road

- From 580 West
  - Take the Strobridge Avenue Exit
  - Turn Right on Strobridge Avenue
  - Turn Right on Castro Valley Boulevard
  - Turn Right on Rutledge Road.
- From 580 East
  - Take the Castro Valley Boulevard Exit (towards Hayward)
  - Turn Left on Castro Valley Boulevard
  - Turn Right on Rutledge Road



The Annual  
129<sup>th</sup> AHA Old Timers Luncheon  
**March 24, 2009**

Castro Valley Loyal Order of Moose Hall  
20835 Rutledge Road  
(510) 537-0830

**1130 Hrs**

**At the Bar**

Trim Adjustment, Hangar Flying, Ramp Rumors,  
Old Buddies Checklist

**1215 Hrs**

**Gear Down & Locked Lunch**

Roast Beef and Chicken Buffet with all the trimmings  
\$18.00

**1330 Hrs**

**129<sup>th</sup> AHA Annual Meeting**

Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Directors  
Presentation of Scholarship Awards

**1400 Hrs**

**Invited Guest Speaker**

Capt Eric Steele, 12th Reconnaissance Squadron, Beale AFB

**1430 Hrs**

**Raffle and Social Hour**

*Spouses and guests are welcome!*

**P.O.C.**

Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446  
Ed Boddington (209) 536-1777

**Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 20, 2009**

**Please Reserve Ramp Service For:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch (\$18.00)      \_\_\_\_\_ 2009 Membership Dues (\$10.00)

**Guest's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Souls Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed (\$18.00 per person - Lunch):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed (\$10.00 – 2009 Membership Dues):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable To: 129<sup>th</sup> AHA**  
**Mail Check and Reservation Form To:**  
**Ms. Lynda Taft-Fawcett**  
**4732 Heatherbrae Circle**  
**Sacramento, CA 95842-4328**

# DONDI'S MERCANTILE STORE

129<sup>th</sup> AHA Merchandise & Apparel

If you would like to order a 129<sup>th</sup> AHA jacket, we again have jackets in stock. Please contact Liliana Ramos for ordering information.

Want to own a really unique & distinctive shirt or cap to show your affiliation with the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA? Dondi's Mercantile Store has a healthy stock of 129<sup>th</sup> AHA related items. Jackets are customized with your name and rank.

All merchandise can be ordered by phone or on-line. Items and prices are shown at right. Shipping and handling are EXTRA.

Order from Liliana Ramos at:  
 (408) 263-5352  
 or online at  
[LtRoadster@pacbell.net](mailto:LtRoadster@pacbell.net)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SIZES</u>
Logo Jacket	\$70 - \$75	
Logo Polo Shirts - Men's & Ladies	\$22	M, L, XL, & 2XL
Logo Baseball Cap	\$10	
Large Jacket Patch	\$10	
Small Shirt / Hat Patch	\$5	
Logo Pin	\$5	
129 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin	\$5	

All items can be shipped. Shipping and handling are EXTRA. All items are sent via U.S. Mail.

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129<sup>th</sup> who isn't a member yet?

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2009 Dues \$10.00

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ 129<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE DATES FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the above information and mail to:  
 129<sup>th</sup> Alumni & Heritage Association  
 c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)  
 6718 Zerillo Dr.  
 Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,  
 PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

# New to the Gang

Our Newest Members

*SrA Sean S. Pellaton  
SMSgt Larry I. Hiyakumoto  
Capt Alyson Teeter*

## Welcome!

Do you know someone who has been affiliated with the 129<sup>th</sup> RQW or its predecessor organizations - and is not a member of the Association? Let's get them signed up!

# Final Fly-By

In Memoriam

Lt Col Paul J. Chabot  
Lt Col John W. Kenney



## Military Children Scholarship Application Deadline is Feb. 18

by Carrie Williams

Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. (AFRNS) – Sharpen your pencils, fire up your computers and eat as much “brain food” as you can! You’ve been preparing your whole life for college, so don’t miss the opportunity to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship through the Scholarships for Military Children Program. Don’t delay because applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 18.

Applications are available in commissaries worldwide. You may also fill out an application online at the Military Scholar Web site, [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), but the Web site does not have a “submit” button, so you must print a copy and drop it off at a commissary. You may also fill the application out by hand. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

Since the scholarship program kicked off in 2001, it has distributed more than \$6.4 million dollars in scholarships to more than 4,000 of the best and brightest children of military families.

Only dependent, unmarried children (younger than 23) of active-duty, Reserve/Guard and retired military members, survivors of servicemembers who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military may apply for a scholarship. Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2009, or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Be sure to check your materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed and that you are using the 2009 application, not one from previous years. For details about the program, check out the “Frequently Asked Questions” page on the Military Scholar Web site. (Courtesy of DeCA)

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AND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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J-L.RUPPEL@worldnet.att.net

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6718 Zerillo Drive  
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Are You Missing in Action?

### *Dead Letter Department*

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you – nor do they return it to us. They charge us 75¢ for providing your forwarding address. Then we update your file, but you do not get a newsletter until next edition unless you request an electronic copy. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129<sup>th</sup> AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

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